

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 28-37 are pending in the application of which claims 28-37 have been allowed.

Claims 1 and 6-8 have been rejected. Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,608,267 (Mahulikar, et al.). Claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahulikar as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,330,158 (Akram).

Claims 2-5 and 9-11 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but are otherwise allowable over the prior art, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Specification

By way of the foregoing amendment, Applicant has corrected the typographical errors on Page 1, lines 4 and 6.

Claim Rejections §§ 102 and 103

Without agreeing with the Examiner's reasons for rejections, claims 1 and 6-8 have been cancelled to facilitate issuance of currently allowable claims, thus obviating the §§ 102 and 103 rejections.

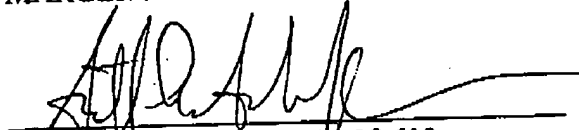
Claim Objections

Claims 2-5 and 9-11 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the limitations of base claim 1. Claim 2 and its dependents should now be in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of claims 2-5 and 9-11 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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